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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Kenneth Austin :
Application No. 09/762,740 : ON PETITION
Filed: June 15, 2001 :
Attorney Docket No. ROY-012 :
:

This is a decision on the petition to revive under 37 CFR 1.137(a), filed July 13, 2012.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a) is **DISMISSED**.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within **TWO (2) MONTHS** from the mail date of this decision. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a)". Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. No fee is required for a renewed petition.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to timely file a reply to the final Office action mailed October 20, 2008. This Office action set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No reply having been received, the application became abandoned on January 21, 2009. The Office mailed a Notice of Abandonment on July 24, 2009.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a) must be accompanied by: (1) the reply required to the outstanding Office action or notice, unless previously filed; (2) the petition fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(l); and (3) a showing to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph was unavoidable; and (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required by 37 CFR 1.137(d). The instant petition lacks item (3).

Decisions on reviving abandoned applications on the basis of "unavoidable" delay have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable: "The word 'unavoidable' ... is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business."¹

With the instant petition, petitioner states that he did not appreciate that by not responding to the October 20, 2008 Office action, the instant application would become abandoned and there would be no continuity between it and any subsequently filed divisional application.

Petitioner's argument has been considered, but is not persuasive. Delay resulting from the lack of knowledge or improper application of the patent statutes, rules of practice or the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure does not constitute "unavoidable" delay.

While the showing of record is not sufficient to establish to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the delay was unavoidable, petitioner is not precluded from obtaining relief by filing a petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) on the basis of unintentional delay. A grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by (1) The reply required to the outstanding Office action or notice, unless previously filed; (2) The petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m) (currently \$930); and (3) A statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to this paragraph was unintentional.

¹ In re Mattulath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912) (quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 U.S.P.Q. 666, 167-68 (D.D.C. 1963), aff'd, 143 U.S.P.Q. 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm'r Pat. 139, 141 (1913).

The file does not indicate a change of address has been submitted, although the address given on the petition differs from the address of record. If appropriate, a change of address should be filed in accordance with MPEP 601.03. A courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the address given on the petition; however, the Office will mail all future correspondence solely to the address of record.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petitions
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571)273-8300
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Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571)272-3207.

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